



1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29

HOUSE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, On Monday, January 16, 2006, an historic event took place in Monrovia, Liberia, as Ellen Johnson Sirleaf took office as Liberia's leader, making her the first elected female president on the African continent; and

WHEREAS, Born in Liberia in 1938, President Sirleaf worked her way through college in the United States by mopping floors and waiting tables; she graduated with a master's degree in public administration from Harvard University in 1971; and

WHEREAS, She served in several top positions in Liberia, including as finance minister; she also held senior positions with Citibank, the World Bank, and the United Nations; and

WHEREAS, She was imprisoned twice in Liberia in the 1980s for political reasons; and

WHEREAS, Founded by freed American slaves in 1847, Liberia was prosperous and peaceful for more than a century, bolstered by abundant timber and diamond wealth; more recently, the country has dealt with back-to-back civil wars, and has much rebuilding to do; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we join with the Conference of Women Legislators and the African-American Caucus in congratulating President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf on her inauguration as the first elected female president on the African continent, and we wish her the best in her term of office; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf as an expression of our esteem.